



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: State Representative Jack Hennessy, Chair
From: State Representative Jeffrey J. Berger
Date: August 14, 2008
Subject: Economic Development Working Group – Transportation Issue

As transportation is on the today's meeting agenda, I would like to raise the importance of prioritizing statewide transportation projects and/or municipal requests. This effort is critical because the Federal government drafts its transportation funding bill every five years and is scheduled to do so in 2009. We therefore must act this year and use our close ties with our Congressional Delegation in doing so.

I believe the key areas include the I-84 and I-95 corridors and the Waterbury Multi-modal transportation construction along with improved rail line service from north of Waterbury through the Valley to New York, thereby creating an important access point for rider use and future economic development. We must also look at the strategic impact of our recommendations as a committee for state legislation and its future impact relative to the federal funding bill of 2009. It is also important to note that what we do through transportation legislation must be coupled with a strategic economic development component.

I hope these comments will be helpful and look forward to our continued working dialogue in creating reliable, working, legislative policy.